

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/803,551

Examiner

Ramnandan Singh

Applicant(s)

HARROW ET AL.

Art Unit

2646

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Jun 21, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-6,9 and 10.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date Aug. 11, 2003
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to applicant's response filed on June 21, 2004.

Claims 2-6, 9-10 pending in the present application.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: :

This invention relates to a circuit to provide a stable indication suitable for use in half-duplex communication in a speakerphone having a line input and a microphone input, and to a method for comparing a first signal on the microphone and a second signal on the line input to determine whether to transmit or receive. Claim 9 identifies the uniquely distinct feature of the method comprising the steps of: (a) comparing the signals to each other and to at least one threshold to produce a binary representation of the comparisons; (b) converting a plurality of binary representations into a first count; and (c) comparing the first count to at least one count threshold to indicate whether to transmit or receive. As such, claim 9 requires converting a plurality of binary representations into a first count; and comparing the first count to at least one count threshold to indicate whether to transmit or receive. While the closest prior art, Arbel [US 4,879,745], McCaslin et al [US 5,764,753] and Kurokawa et al [US 5,535,433] each teach about whether to transmit or receive, Arbel making analog comparisons and using a control state machine, McCaslin et al using the absolute value of a receive signal in conjunction with a counter, and Kurokawa et al using a logic control circuit; none of them show or suggest to utilize converting a plurality of binary representations into a first

count; and comparing the first count to at least one count threshold to indicate whether to transmit or receive. As such, the prior art, either singularly or in combination, fail to anticipate or render the above limitation obvious. Therefore, claim 9 is allowable.

Claims 2-6 and 10 are allowable due to dependence from claim 9.

3. The claims have been re-numbered as follows:

CLAIMS NUMBER (ORIGINAL)	CLAIMS NUMBER (FINAL)
9	1
2-6	2-6
10	7

Claim no. 9 along with figure number 2 will be published in the Official Gazette.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ramnandan Singh whose telephone number is (571) 272-7529. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH (8:00-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Fan Tsang can be reached on (571) 272-7547. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Ramnandan Singh
Examiner
Art Unit 2646



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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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